

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Please fill in the highlighted areas

*all sections (IA, IB, IC, etc.) must be addressed or the application will be considered invalid***I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

- A. Applicant Name: Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group
- B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1329
- C. City: Trout Creek State: ID Zip: 83864
- Telephone: 208-304-3852 E-mail: brita@lcfwg.org
- D. Contact Person: Brita Olson
- Address if different from Applicant: _____
- City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Weyerhaeuser Company
- Mailing Address: 2050 HWY 2 West
- City: Kalispell State: MT Zip: 59901
- Telephone: 406-892-6368 E-mail: brian.sugden@weyerhaeuser.com

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

- A. Project Name: Loneman Creek Riparian Fencing Project
- River, stream, or lake: Loneman Creek
- Location: Township: 22N Range: R26W Section: 20, 21, 29
- Latitude: 47.6441 N Longitude: -114.9484 W *within project (decimal degrees)*
- County: Sanders County
- B. Purpose of Project:
- The purpose of this project is to exclude cattle from the lower sections of Loneman Creek, a Westslope Cutthroat Trout fishery in the Thompson River drainage.
- C. Brief Project Description: _____

Loneman Creek riparian fencing

Loneman Creek supports an entirely Westslope Cutthroat Trout population and is a tributary to the Little Thompson River, which is 303(d) listed for sediment and nutrients. Elevated summer water temperatures in the Little Thompson River also negatively impact the mainstem Thompson River which is the Lower Clark Fork's most popular trout fishery (10,000-13,000 angler days annually). Monitoring of temperature in Loneman Creek indicates that summer water temperatures are elevated compared to a nearby reference stream. Cattle currently have unmitigated access to the creek, but with exclusion fencing the riparian area will have the opportunity to recover which will result in improved habitat, shade, reduced stream temperatures, and sediment and nutrient inputs.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: Approximately 2,000 feet of stream

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 2,000.00

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ 0 In-kind \$ 0
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ \$3,046.30 In-kind \$ 320.00
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 5,366.30

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

Attach **specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support and fish biologist support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete a *supplemental questionnaire***
(fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

G.

H. **Attach land management & maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.**

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Westslope Cutthroat Trout

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

Riparian fencing is a proven, low-cost, long-term solution to riparian grazing. By excluding cattle from Loneman Creek, the riparian area will have the opportunity to recover and revegetate, resulting in improved habitat (shade, stream geometry and terrestrial insect inputs), as well as improve water quality (reduced temperatures, and decreased sediment and nutrient inputs).

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Loneman Creek riparian fencing

Despite habitat degradation, the fish community in Loneman Creek is comprised entirely of Westslope Cutthroat Trout. The current habitat conditions in Loneman Creek exhibit elevated sediment and water temperatures, and by limiting cattle access to the stream, this project will address those impairments, improve habitat, and directly benefit the fish population. Although small, Loneman Creek is in the Thompson River drainage which received 13,000 angler days in 2015. This project was identified in the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan as a priority for the Thompson River drainage.

- D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Loneman Creek is a tributary to the Little Thompson River, which feeds the lower Clark Fork River's most popular trout stream, the Thompson River. The mainstem Thompson River has low densities of Westslope Cutthroat Trout, but the few it does contain originate in headwater tributaries. Loneman Creek itself receives very little fishing pressure but is open to the public.

- E. The project agreement includes a 20-year maintenance commitment. Please discuss your ability to meet this commitment.

Weyerhaeuser lands in the project area are included in a conservation easement held by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and is open to public access. Grazing that occurs in this area is managed through the Thompson River Grazing Cooperative (a joint leasing agreement on Lolo National Forest, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and Weyerhaeuser lands). Typically, the maintenance of fencing is included as a part of grazing license agreements through the Thompson River Grazing Cooperative. The current leasee will help install this fence, and fencing maintenance will be included in subsequent lease agreements as is standard protocol in the Thompson River Grazing Cooperative (see attached letter from Weyerhaeuser). Additionally, the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group is actively working in the Thompson River drainage and will be available to inspect the fence and organize additional planting efforts if needed.

- F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

The primary cause of habitat degradation in the area is that cattle have unmitigated access to the stream. This project will directly address the cause of degradation by removing the ongoing impact and allowing the stream to naturally recover.

- G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

Public benefits from this project will include improved water quality and fish habitat. Loneman Creek is a tributary to the Little Thompson River, which feeds the lower Clark Fork River's most popular trout stream, the Thompson River. Loneman Creek itself receives very little fishing pressure, but does have public access.

- H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No

- I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

- J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project applicant must enter into a written agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks specifying terms and duration of the project. The applicant must obtain all applicable permits prior to project construction. A competitive bid process must be followed when using State funds.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:



Date:

5/31/2018

Sponsor (if applicable):

*Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.

Mail To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Fisheries Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

E-mail To: Michelle McGree
mmcgree@mt.gov
(electronic submissions MUST be signed)

Incomplete or late applications will be rejected and returned to applicant.
Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications must be signed and *received* by the Future Fisheries Program Officer in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****



**Attachments to Future Fisheries Improvement Program Application
Loneman Creek Riparian Fencing Project**

Section II, Item F

- Budget (Page 2)

Section II, Item G

- Map (Page 4)
- Fencing specifications for the Loneman Creek Riparian Fencing Project (Page 5)
- Monitoring plan (Page 6)
- Letter of support – Weyerhaeuser (Page 7)
- Letter of support – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (Page 8)

Section II, Item H

- The proposed project will take place on Weyerhaeuser lands covered under the Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan completed by Plum Creek Timber Company in 2000. It can be accessed at:

<https://www.fws.gov/montanafieldoffice/Endangered_Species/Habitat_Conservation_Plans/Plum_Creek_HCP/NFHCP.htm>

Loneman Creek riparian fencing
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

WORK ITEMS (ITEMIZE BY CATEGORY)	NUMBER OF UNITS	UNIT DESCRIPTION*	COST/UNIT	TOTAL COST	CONTRIBUTIONS			
					FUTURE FISHERIES REQUEST	IN-KIND SERVICES**	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL
Personnel***								
Permitting	4	hours	\$27.27	\$ 109.08		109.98		\$ 109.98
			Sub-Total	\$ 109.08	\$ -	\$ 109.98	\$ -	\$ 109.98
Travel								
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction Materials****								
5 ft T-Posts (with clips)	300	Posts	\$6.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,800.00
Barbed Wire	12	Rolls	\$80.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 480.00	\$ -	\$ 480.00	\$ 960.00
Smooth Wire	5	Rolls	\$80.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
Treated pointed posts (8 ft, 6 in diameter)	30	Posts	\$20.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
Treated brace posts (8 ft, 5 inch diameter)	20	Posts	\$15.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 180.00	\$ 300.00
Fencing staples	1	Box	\$50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous (gravel, additional unanticipated materials, etc.)	1	Lump	\$390.00	\$ 390.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 390.00	\$ 390.00
			Sub-Total	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Equipment and Labor								
Grazing leasee fence installation	16	hours	\$20.00	\$ 320.00		320.00		\$ 320.00
Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group coordination	16	hours	\$27.27	\$ 436.32		436.32		\$ 436.32
			Sub-Total	\$ 756.32	\$ -	\$ 756.32	\$ -	\$ 756.32
Mobilization								
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS					\$ 2,000.00	\$ 866.30	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,366.30

Loneman Creek riparian fencing
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

All of the columns in the budget table and the matching contribution table MUST be completed appropriately or the application will be invalid. Please see the example budget sheet for additional clarification.

*Units = feet, hours, inches, etc. Do not use lump sum unless there is no other way to describe the costs.

**Can include in-kind materials. Justification for in-kind labor (e.g. hourly rates used for calculations). Describe here or in text.

Reminder: Government salaries cannot be used as in-kind match

***The Review Panel suggests that design and oversight costs associated with a proposed project not exceed 15% of the total project budget. If design and oversight costs are in excess of 15%, applications must include a minimum of two competitive bids for the cost of undertaking the project.

****The Review Panel recommends a maximum fencing cost of \$1.50 per foot. Additional costs may be the responsibility of the applicant and/or partners.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS (do not include requested funds)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Weyerhaeuser	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	Y
Ranching for Rivers Program, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	N
Grazing leasee	\$ 320.00	\$ -	\$ 320.00	Y
NorthWestern Energy	\$ -	\$ 546.30	\$ 546.30	Y
TOTALS	\$ 320.00	\$ 3,046.30	\$ 3,366.30	

Loneman Creek riparian fencing

Proposed Loneman Creek Fence Enclosure
Perimeter: 4390 ft
Area: 6.3 ac

Sec 20,
T22N R26W

Sec 21,
T22N R26W

Sanders

Corner/panel
braces (blue dots)

Sec 29,
T22N R26W

Sec 28,
T22N R26W



0 0.0175 0.035 0.07 0.105 0.14 Miles



Legend

- Loneman Cr Proposed Fence
- County
- PLS
- Hydrology Line**
 - All Other types
- HydrologyTypeID**
 - Shoreline
 - Stream/River
 - Perennial
 - Intermittent
 - Ephemeral
- Ditches
- Lake/Pond/Reservoir
- Artificial Path
- Swamp/Marsh
- Active Quarries
- Stimson_Q2_2018
- PostHarvestImagery RGB**
 - Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3

Fencing specifications for the Loneman Creek Riparian Fencing Project

The proposed Loneman Creek riparian fencing project perimeter (see above map) was prepared by Weyerhaeuser (landowner). Aerial (ArcGIS) estimates calculate the perimeter to be 4,390 feet. Because on the ground micro-topography, trees, bends, corners, crossings, etc. will increase the materials needed to construct, we have estimated our budget based on a 5000 foot perimeter (roughly 15% buffer).

The design for this fence will be 3 strand barbed wire fence with a strand of smooth wire on top spaced at 18", 24", 30" (barbed), and 42" (smooth), which is modelled after wildlife friendly fencing installed at FWP's Wildlife Management Area in Thompson Falls (see right). Fence posts will be 5 foot t-posts, spaced every 16.5 feet without stays per Future Fisheries recommendations for minimum fencing spacing.

Per recommendations from the landowner (Brian Sugden, Weyerhaeuser), stream crossings will not require modified rail structures as Loneman Creek is a small order tributary and a 16.5 foot spacing will easily span the creek.



Corner and turn braces (see left) will be made with three wooden posts (8' long/6" diameter treated pointed posts) and 2 horizontal braces (8' long/5" diameter treated posts). From aerial mapping of the site, we anticipate at least 9 braces will be needed but are including 10 braces in our budget in case there is an unanticipated need for an extra reinforced bend or turn. An extra roll of smooth wire is included in our budget to account for wire needed to tension the braces, along with fencing staples to fasten tension wire and fencing wire to brace posts.

Prior to construction, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group will further consult with the grazing lease, landowner, and Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff for further recommendations and to confirm design.

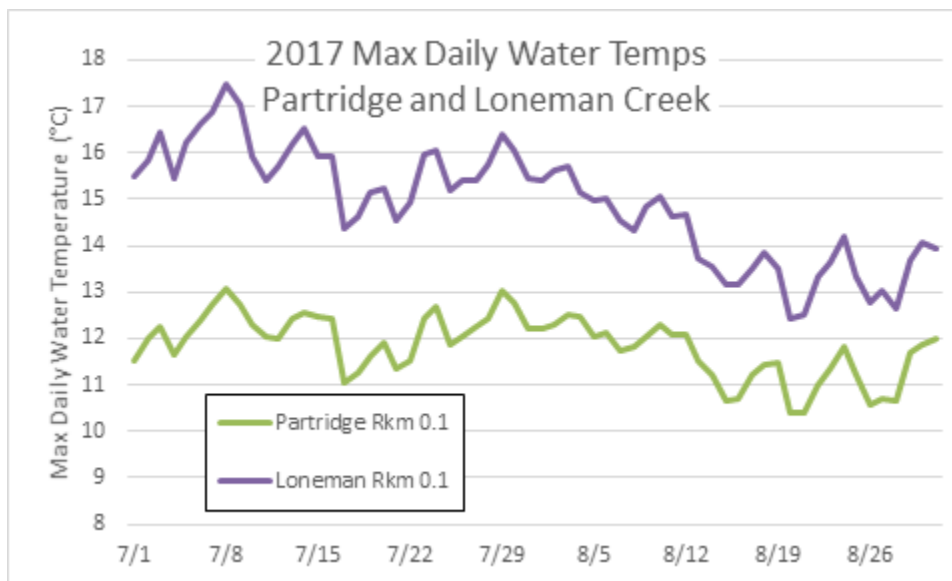
If determined necessary in consultation with grazing leasee, landowner, and natural resource conservation service, gravel/rock will be added around posts on the upstream and/or downstream boundaries.

Loneman Creek riparian fencing

Grazing leasee will take the lead on installation. Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group staff will coordinate funding, materials purchase and delivery, permitting (prepare 310 application and attend Eastern Sanders County Conservation District meetings / site visits), and be available on-site for installation. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks staff out of Thompson Falls will also be available to provide in-kind labor for installation.

Monitoring plan

Pre-project photos will be taken of the stream, and photo points will be taken annually to track stream recovery. The graph below shows pre-project stream temperatures (collected by FWP) in Loneman Creek relative to a nearby “reference” stream of similar size and gradient. Post-project temperature will continue to be monitored. Additional monitoring protocols will be identified and carried out in consultation with the Weyerhaeuser and FWP staff.



Location • 2050 Hwy 2 West • Kalispell, Montana, 59901

406-751-2413

brian.sugden@weyerhaeuser.com

May 29, 2018

Brita Olson
Coordinator
Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group
PO Box 1329
Trout Creek, MT, 59874

Subject: Letter of Support for Loneman Creek Fence Enclosure

Dear Brita,

This letter is in support of the construction of a riparian livestock enclosure along 0.4 miles of lower Loneman Creek, tributary to the Little Thompson River. The proposed enclosure is on Weyerhaeuser land, and is managed as part of a multi-agency grazing cooperative overseen by Montana DNRC.

This lease has been managed well over the past 25 years, and overall riparian conditions have improved substantially over that time in the Little Thompson River drainage. This location is one of a very few “hot spots” that remain, and is difficult to manage without full fence enclosure.

There are many anticipated benefits of this fence:

1. It targets a priority section of stream (lower 0.4 miles) that has perhaps the highest grazing impact of any documented native westslope cutthroat stream in the Little Thompson River watershed.
2. The project will lead to reduced livestock-altered streambank damage that will reduce sediment delivery to the stream. This will help with attainment of a sediment TMDL in the larger Little Thompson River watershed, which identified bank instability as a key sediment source.
3. The project will have stream temperature benefits by enabling growth of streamside shrubs and conifers. A nearby stream with reference shade levels (Partridge Creek) has summer daily maximum temperatures that are 3-4 °C cooler than Loneman Creek. This enclosure is expected to lead to shade conditions that are more similar to those of Partridge Creek within a decade.

This area is covered by a Conservation Easement that is held by the State of Montana, and grazing is an allowed historic use. Any fence improvements will be maintained through time as part of the annual range management plan.

Weyerhaeuser is pledging a cash contribution for project materials in the amount of \$500, which is 15% of the annual revenue that we will receive from this lease in 2018.

Regards,



Brian Sugden
Forest Hydrologist

FWP.MT.GOV



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

PO Box 148 • Thompson Falls, MT 59873 • (406) 827.9320 • rkreiner@mt.gov

May 30, 2018

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Future Fisheries Improvement Program
1420 E. Sixth Ave.
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

To whom it may concern:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is in support of the Loneman Creek Fence Enclosure Project. Loneman Creek is a tributary to the Little Thompson River which eventually feeds the mainstem Thompson River. The Thompson River is one of FWP's top priority watersheds for both conservation of native species and recreational angling in the lower Clark Fork River. The Thompson River provides a popular recreational fishery (13,000 angler days in 2015) as well as some of the lower Clark Fork River's best spawning and rearing habitat for native trout.

The Little Thompson River is the Thompson River's largest tributary by drainage area but is often overlooked due to excessive abuse to the landscape and the overabundance of brook trout in many streams. The stream is listed as impaired for sediment and nutrients (303 (d)), and warms the mainstem Thompson River for two miles below its confluence. In 2016 and 2017, FWP surveys revealed headwater populations of westslope cutthroat trout in several tributaries to the Little Thompson River, including Loneman Creek. Temperature surveys also revealed that maximum daily summer temperatures in Loneman Creek were elevated by 3-4°C, compared to a similar-sized reference stream nearby.

Cattle grazing in Loneman Creek is managed under a lease which is administered by the primary landowners in the Thompson River- Weyerhaeuser, Montana Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Forest Service. All three landowners participated in the recent completion of the Thompson River Watershed Restoration Plan which identified the Loneman Creek project as a priority. This project, combined with planned future work in the Little Thompson River will positively influence water quality throughout the drainage by the reduction of sediment, nutrients, and water temperatures. The Loneman Creek Fencing project will likely provide an immediate benefit to a small population of native westslope cutthroat trout, while contributing to overall water quality goals in the Little Thompson and Thompson River drainages.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kreiner

Lower Clark Fork Fisheries Management Biologist